

SENATE BILL 3958

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, Part 7, relative to after school programs  
funded by net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 7, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-7\_\_.

(a)

(1) The department of education shall establish, administer and monitor a  
system of competitive grants for eligible organizations providing after school civic  
education programs consistent with Tenn. Const. art. XI, § 5.

(2) The grants shall be available in any fiscal year in which the financial  
assistance program for attendance at postsecondary educational institutions  
located within this state is funded pursuant to chapter 4, part 9 of this title, and  
excess funds are available from the lottery for education account for other  
educational purposes and projects consistent with Tenn. Const. art. XI, § 5. In  
any such year, the governor may recommend, and the general assembly may  
appropriate, moneys for grants for after school civic education programs. The  
appropriations shall otherwise be made in the manner required by law for  
appropriations.

(3) The grants shall supplement, not supplant, non-lottery educational  
resources for after school educational programs and purposes.

(b) In accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of  
education and on the recommendation of the commissioner of education, grants shall be

awarded to public schools, public charter schools, or public and not-for-profit organizations that provide, or propose to provide, after school civic education programs meeting the requirements of this section.

(c)

(1) The purpose of the after school civic education programs shall be to increase elementary and secondary students' knowledge and understanding of the workings and functioning of government at the national, state and local levels and to foster responsible citizenship and life-long participation in community activities, planning and decision-making, and in national, state and local government.

(2) After school civic education programs shall:

(A) Provide education, instruction, tutoring and mentoring in civic education;

(B) Foster research, organizational, analytical, communication, both written and oral, planning and problem-solving skills and critical thinking by examining current civic issues and their concomitant solutions at levels appropriate to the students served;

(C) Provide opportunities for students to gain confidence in public speaking and persuasion and in decision-making through participation in simulated town hall meetings and congressional hearings and in mock courts; and

(D) Encourage and provide opportunities, as appropriate, for students to participate in the functioning of their communities.

(3) Such after school programs may serve students in any or all of the grades four through twelve (4-12). Such after school programs shall be available to students on an average of ten (10) hours per week.

(d) At least once each year, the commissioner shall report findings and recommendations concerning the after school civic education programs established pursuant to the provisions of this section to the governor, speaker of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, and the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives.

(e) The state board of education, on the recommendation of the commissioner of education, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this part. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.